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The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Hamilton and Oneida Indian Nation: historically failed integration but future collaboration

by Lizzie Herr '24
INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

On Hamilton's campus, right above the Hamilton College sign at the bottom of College Hill Road, stands a small granite monument that marks the Fort Stanwix Line dividing British Colonial territory from Native American land. The monument serves as a reminder of the College's founding history and that it is located on ancestral Oneida land. While Hamilton students, faculty and community members have likely passed the small granite monument on foot or in a car many times before, few know its significance or the history behind it.

Seth Schermerhorn, Director and Associate Professor of American Studies, said, "I've seen administrators, who, in seeing [the] map of this line, asked, which side is the College on? You should know that, but also you don't really understand that the vast majority of what today [is] College property is on the west side of that line and firmly in what would have been considered Indian territory at that time."

The construction of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, that preceded Hamilton College, was built on the Oneida side of the Fort Stanwix line. Schermerhorn suspected that, "Shenendoah [or Skenandoah] and Oneidas would have become partners with that academic institution, but then it didn't really work out."

As someone who received an education alongside both other white and Native students, Samuel Kirkland later hoped to replicate that model in the founding of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy. According to *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland*, Kirkland was the first white student at More's Indian Charity School in Connecticut run by Eleazar Wheelock. Wheelock's intention was to teach Native people Christianity, agriculture and husbandry. *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland* specifies Wheelock's goal for his school and says, "At the end of their course, the young savages, hopefully civilized, were to return to their tribes as missionaries and teachers."

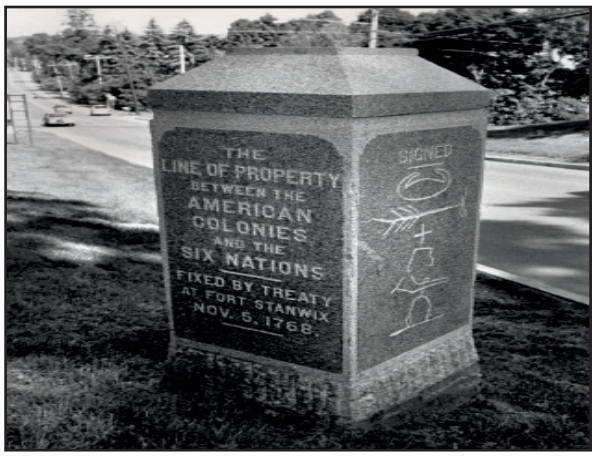

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE ARCHIVES

The granite monument on College Hill marks the Fort Stanwix Line.

After a few years of school, Kirkland became a missionary, and traveled to Central New York to preach the gospel to the Iroquois. After living with Seneca for a year and a half, according to *On the Hill*, he arrived at the Oneida village in July of 1766. *On the Hill* says, "Kirkland devoted himself to learning the language of the Oneidas, and as he became proficient he began delivering his sermons in that language."

Maurice Isserman, Professor of American History and author of *On the Hill: A Bicentennial History of Hamilton College, 1812-2012* described how Kirkland dedicated his life to converting the Oneida to Christianity. Isserman said that Kirkland in 1764, "builds up a church and forges close ties to Chief Skenandoah." Then soon after, when the American Revolution began, Kirkland, according to Isserman, "helps recruit the Oneida to support the revolutionary cause."

After the Revolutionary War, Kirkland returned to the Oneida region and began thinking about opening his own academy. In 1793, according to *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland*, Kirkland went to Philadelphia and asked for support from President George Washington and Alexander Hamilton to open the Hamilton-Oneida Academy. According to *On the Hill*, the school for high school aged students, "would disprove the belief held by some whites that Indians 'have such a viciousness and depravity of disposition as forbids their civilization.'" Both Washington and Hamilton supported him and Hamilton was a founding member of the Board of Trustees for the Academy. The school was officially approved on Jan. 31, 1793 in which Kirkland was not a trustee, but a crucial financier.

The Hamilton-Oneida Academy was planned to be a place for white and Native students to be educated together, but from the start of the College, the Native co-founders seemed to be excluded from real leadership.

The Journals of Samuel Kirkland state that Native Chiefs were intended to be appointed to the Board of Trustees. However, it seems that the white trustees held mistrust and prejudice against the Chiefs and did not want them in leadership. *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland* offers, "after consulting with some of the more judicious Indians, they thought it might occasion jealousies among them to which they were so much inclined." Instead, no chiefs were on the board of the Academy, but instead were invited to just attend meetings once or twice a year. This marked a start to the institution's turn away from its original goals to educate both Native and white children.

Despite Kirkland's original commitment to universal education, *On the Hill* describes how the first class of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy seemed to consist of four Native children and around 25 white students. Three months after its opening, the school burnt to the ground. After the reconstruction of the building and its reopening, it seemed that only one Native student continued to attend the school.

Isserman further describes how with limited records of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, that "there are a few Native American students in the first year or so. But for whatever reason, they disappear. And it becomes all

it's their children who are educated at the academy."

In 1797, the Society of Scotland, that once pledged their support for Kirkland's missionary work, revoked their financing because as stated by T*he Journals of Samuel Kirkland*, "It was clear that the Society was losing faith in the efforts to help the Indians in America."

A lot of the history about why Native students did not stay at the Academy remains unknown. According to *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland*, from the early stages of the Academy, "The Indians were dissatisfied that they were expected to pay tuition and that more of their young people were not admitted." However, there is no known physical documentation of what the experience of Native students at the Hamilton-Oneida Academy was like and why they did not stay.

All that remains is the oral history passed down through Oneida members. *The Spectator* reached out to members of Oneida Indian Nation for interviews, but did not hear back. This article relies on Hamilton-centered historical documentation and lacks Oneida voices telling this history. Like the missing pieces of history from the College, *The Spectator* recognizes the limited and incomplete perspective of this story without any direct Oneida perspective.

Schermerhorn spoke to some oral histories that he has heard from Oneida members. On a tour in August of 2016 of 60 College Hill Road, or the "1793 House" (located next to Skenandoa House), with members of Oneida that "[the Oneida] sort of thought of this as a place where Oneida students, centuries ago, would have been profoundly unhappy before they came home from college in that first semester and I think never returned."

Although there are no verified historical documents stating that Oneida students may have had unpleasant experiences in the basement of 1793 House, Schermerhorn stated the importance of still listening to oral histories. He said, "I would say that for us as non-native people to be utterly dismissive of Native people and whatever claims that they're making would be a kind of a jerk move."

After a brief closure and bankruptcy, the Hamilton-Oneida Academy continued successfully until the establishment of the College, but no Native student ever graduated. *On the Hill* describes, "Thus the Hamilton-Oneida Academy neglected the ostensible purpose for which it had been founded." Kirkland died in 1808.

Kirkland and Chief Skenandoah remained close friends, even requesting to be buried next to each other. An article on the Oneida Indian Nation website titled "The Skenandoah Boulder Honors Instrumental Oneida Leader" written by Kandice Watson describes how Chief Skenandoah, "always held great respect for his clergyman. In fact, it was his wish to be buried next to Samuel Kirkland in Clinton, NY after his death, which his Nation and family honored in 1816." The two men were moved to the Hamilton cemetery in 1856.

On *The Spectator*'s visit to the grave of Kirkland and Skenandoah with Schermerhorn, he noted, "you can't miss the relative size. [The graves are] very near one another, maybe next to one another, but they don't really have an equitable [representation]. Whatever the plan was, [it] was apparently not to make them roughly the same size."

By the time Hamilton College was founded in 1812, the co-education model for Native and white settlers to attend school together was abandoned. By 1812, Isserman said, "Kirkland is four years in his grave" and Skenandoah was believed to be over one hundred years old. *On the Hill* elaborates how, "As the contraction of the proposed institution's name from "Hamilton-Oneida" to "Hamilton" suggests, the education of Oneida youth no longer counted among the trustees' concerns."

Schermerhorn said that because of Hamilton's location on the Native American side of Fort Stanwix line and Chief Skenandoah's close relationship to Kirkland, the two men may have been considered "co-founders of the institution." That being said, Schermerhorn was perplexed about how people seldom, "go a step further and say, so what that actually means is that [the Oneidas] were business partners who were kind of cut out of a business deal."

Not only has Hamilton never graduated an Oneida person from the College, Schermerhorn questions what Hamilton owes, "by virtue of the fact that they've excluded their co-founders from the institution historically."

"As the contraction of the proposed institution's name from 'Hamilton-Oneida' to 'Hamilton suggests,' the education of Oneida youth no longer counted among the trustees' concerns" - Maurice Isserman in On the Hill

Between the founding of Hamilton College in 1812 and the 1960s, *The Spectator* could not find any documentation or reports of interactions between Oneida and the College. This leaves a large gap of around 150 years of undocumented history about the relations between Hamilton and Oneida.

The next documentation of the relationship between the College and Oneida Indian Nation found by *The Spectator* was an article in a 1960 issue of the paper titled "Missionary Founded Hamilton" and in sub-text, "Taught Indians." This brief article describes the founding of the College, but does not mention the then present-day Nation.

Published on November 10, 1967, *The Spectator* wrote an article titled, "Former Hamilton 'Residents' Visited." This article highlights a visit a few Hamilton students paid to Oneida Reservation in 1967. The article describes how when the Hamilton students tried to locate the then Oneida Reservation, "The manager of the Gulf Oil station in Sherill laughed when we asked directions. 'Well the reservation,' he chuckled, 'it's a couple of trailers and a farmhouse a few miles south on 46.'" The authors of the article noted that the gas station manager was mostly correct from what they could see. On the Oneida Reservation, they only found trailers, an archery range, and a vacant field used for powwows.

The Hamilton students spent two hours at Oneida Reservation in which they talked "with Princess Shenandoa, a dark-skinned, handsome girl in her early twenties. She spoke glowingly of her ancestors."

The Hamilton students noted the legal struggle over land, but did not note Hamilton's part in this history. They reported in *The Spectator*, "litigation which has been going on for the past three years and which has just now come to a climax." The article describes the Oneidas' then efforts to sue the State of New York for stolen land over 150 years. The students wrote, "They [the Oneidas] want funds to maintain their traditions, to improve housing, to attract industry, and to set up their own education system."

The article also noted, "Because this reservation is so small, most of the 2,000 Oneidas living in New York State reservations live on the 6,000 acre Onondaga Reservation south of Syracuse." *The Spectator* could not find other documentation between the College and Oneida Indian Nation until the 1990s. Schermerhorn reflected on how events between the College and Oneida grew post-1990 since that "would be the date [after] the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, or IGRA, and this is the means through which

PHOTO OF COURTESY OF LIZZIE HERR '24

Skenandoah's and Kirkland's graves

Oneidas have been able to build pretty considerable wealth in order to actually practice their sovereignty."

From his perspective, he said, "I think it's just worth pointing out that I think once we hit the nineties, I think the College starts to see that there might be some benefits in cosying up with the [Oneidas], which didn't seem like much of a plan for the centuries before that, other than the first start [to] the College."

Starting in the early 2000s, the College had an increasing and much more documented relationship with the Oneida Indian Nation. As recounted in an article, "Book Chronicles Hamilton College's Founding as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy to Today" on the Oneida Indian Nation website, Shenendoah was honored when Hamilton College dedicated a residence hall, Skenandoah House, to the Oneida Chief. The article also reported that some Oneida youth joined the Hamilton College Summer Science Exploratory Program: "the two-week session offered hands-on laboratory experience and the opportunity to conduct research with professors from the school."

Hamilton's growing interest in acknowledging its history with the Oneida Indian Nation also began to filter into academics. In 2012, Nathan Goodale, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Anthropology, taught a course about the archaeology of Hamilton for the first time. On the Hill, published in this same year in honor of the bicentennial, said that a stone foundation behind 40 College Hill Road was used by Samuel Kirkland for prayer. In the class, Goodale described, "we did an excavation around the stone foundation to essentially test the hypothesis that was in Professor Isserman's book and we found that there was no link."

The stone foundation was actually part of a garden gazebo house of a Hamilton professor, Edward North. This research continued the next two years and, according to Goodale, "did establish some connections for me with the Oneida Indian Nation, their tribal cultural preservation officer and an archeologist."

That being said, there have been limitations to Hamilton's contact and relationship with Oneida. Responding to whether he has been able to connect with any members of Oneida, Schermerhorn talked about how sometimes the College discouraged these relationships. He said this was, "in part because it would all be unsanctioned from the College's perspective. So in that way, everything that I've done has typically been more informal."

Schermerhorn said, "I even had one supervisor who was angry that I was saying I was part of a [the unsanctioned] Hamilton Oneida working group which is really how I gained a lot of these experiences." Schermerhorn said that the lack of the recognition from the College left him uncompensated for his informal work with the Oneida Indian Nation.

Although Goodale had some brief interactions with Oneida Indian Nation during his Archaeology of Hamilton course, he thinks that collaborations between the Nation and College more formally began in 2016 when President Wippman started his presidency at Hamilton. He explained, "A group of faculty, I was one of them, wrote to him [Wippman] and urged him to have a meeting with Ray Halbritter [Representative of the Oneida Indian Nation and CEO of Turning Stone Enterprise] just to have a meeting. President Wippman did that which in my opinion, opened the door for us to actually start having conversations."

These conversations led to the establishment of a committee, which Goodale chairs, that came together at first for, "making recommendations to President Wippman about the wallpaper in the Eels House King dining room." From there, the committee expanded its reach, and Goodale said that President Wippman contacted Halbritter about appointing someone from Oneida to join the committee. The Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator for Oneida Indian Nation named Derek Montroy was appointed. This was incredibly significant as Goodale described, "It was not lost on me that this [Montroy's appointment] is potentially the first time that leadership has collaborated between the Oneida and Hamilton since the 1700s."

Hamilton students also started bridging connections with Oneida Indian Nation at this time. In the fall of 2016, Christina Florakis '19 and Lilly Pieper '18 founded the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative (SKI) at Hamilton. In February of 2017, *The Spectator* highlighted SKI's visit to the Oneida Reservation twenty minutes away from campus.

With the help of club advisor Chaplain Jeff McCarn and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Meredith Moss, SKI brought around 35 Hamilton community members to Oneida's bi-monthly social dance.

One of the attendees, David Gagnidze '20 described for *The Spectator*, "It was like you were going into their family… because of their welcoming gesture to allow to dance and share in their tradition. I think we owe it to them to welcome them here too."

In the following years, SKI continued to foster a relationship with the College's Oneida neighbors. With the support from the Chaplain and Religious Studies department, they hosted two Haudenosaunee socials. The three groups also organized a Kairos Blanket Exercise Program with Michelle D. Schenandoah (Wolf Clan) of Oneida Indian Nation and Neal Powless (Eel Clan) of Onondaga Nation, according to a Hamilton news article "An Interactive Indigenous History Lesson" by Alex Medina '22.

This experience was incredibly impactful on Hamilton students. Eric Kopp '22 reflected on his experience participating in the exercise in the Hamilton news article, "It was honestly one of the most powerful things I've ever experienced…To actually see 500 years of genocide and suffering in front of your eyes really changes the way you view your ancestors and American history." The article also quoted Schenandoah, who said, "It's sad that a lot of people here [at Hamilton] don't know a lot about Haudenosaunee culture and the Oneida people…you should think about the sacred indigenous connection this land has as you walk throughout the Hamilton campus."

Despite these efforts towards partnership and education, many Hamilton students remain uneducated about who the Oneida Indian Nation are and their history with the College. When asked what he knows about Oneida Indian Nation, Jacob Zeng '24 said, "I feel like I know that we are on the Oneida [Indian] Nation land, but I haven't specifically learned anything about that." Chloe Lance '24 similarly said, "I had one professor who did a land acknowledgement once, but otherwise I don't know much about the Nation."

Other than the land acknowledgement that some professors include in their emails, many students remain unaware of the true history with the Oneida Indian Nation. Zeng '24 said, "I haven't taken any class that would have covered it. But like I see a bunch of emails from the History Department, I think some of them are covering Oneida [Indian] Nation."

Despite the lack of widespread knowledge among the student population, there are signs and emblems of Oneida Indian Nation on campus. In 2021, Hamilton worked to bury the second Oneida member in the Hamilton

Dear Hamilton Community,

Welcome back to campus! We hope you had a restful and rejuvenating spring break and we're happy to have you back. There's just a little over a month left in this school year, so make sure you are taking full advantage of these last weeks! Over the break, Commons got a stunning upgrade. The crisp new eggshell walls are a welcome change, and students were delighted to see the flags back up waving in the dining hall!

Hey Seniors, make sure you show up to Senior Pub on Thursday night at the Little Pub starting at 8:00 p.m.! Student bands will take the stage at 10:00 p.m.

Spring sports are in full swing! This Friday at 3:30 p.m. at the baseball diamond, watch the Continentals take on Middlebury. The softball team also faces Williams on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. also at the diamond. On Saturday at 10:00 a.m. on the Pritchard track, Hamilton is hosting the Track and Field Invitational. Make sure to show up and support the spring sports.

Need a second to unwind? The Wellin has the answer. On Friday at 4:00 p.m., the Wellin is hosting an Art Yoga session. The session will revolve around the meditative practices of looking at art mixed with a gentle yoga practice. No need to bring a mat, they'll be provided.

Throw your boots on! The Little Pub is hosting a Honky Tonk night on Saturday at 8:00 p.m., make sure to stop by for some country music, dancing and drinks!

On Sunday at noon at the Bristol Center, Hamilton Soul Food is hosting an Easter brunch. The brunch is open to everyone including community members! Make sure to attend if you want to grab a bite!

Our podcasts are here! Search History is hosted by Stella O'Brien '24 and Hannah Jablons '24, where our hosts dive into the quirky corners of their curious minds. The Arts & Entertainment podcast, hosted by Max Bratter '25 and Allen Underwood '25, spotlights up-and-coming artists and comments on today's music scene. Check out the QR codes below to listen!

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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cemetery after Skenandoah. Scheremerhorn explained that this was Joanne Shenandoah, a seventh generation descendent of Chief Skenandoah, who came to visit Hamilton and performed here several times over her life. Scheremerhorn interpreted burying her body in Hamilton's cemetery as almost, "an Oneida legal claim saying, this is our land. And updating it with burying [Shenandoah] here. I don't think the College considered that when they were quickly moving [to bury her body in the cemetery], but that's how I see it."

There are new administrative efforts to change Hamilton student's lack of knowledge and interaction with Oneida Indian Nation. When Ngonidzashe Munemo, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, started at Hamilton in July of 2022, Goodale described how, "part of his deanship was a priority to establish a Native and Indigenous Studies program of some sort here."

From there, a board of faculty and administrators started the further development of an Indigenous and Native American Studies program in which they again enlisted the insight of Derek Montroy. Goodale said, "When we're interviewing candidates, he [Montroy] is able to be the Nation representative there."

Dr. Brianna Burke, Visiting Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, started at Hamilton in August of 2023 as the first faculty fellow under the Indigenous and Native American Studies (NAIS) initiative from an internal Hamilton grant. She is working with the Oneida Indian Nation to discuss how we can build a stronger collaborative relationship with them. The same board overseeing NAIS is currently working on hiring the second faculty fellow. Goodale said that hopefully that second person will be hired sometime over the next month or six weeks.

Burke talked about Hamilton's partnership with Oneida to co-author a co-written land acknowledgement. She described, "It is rare for an institution to be able to co-author such a statement in collaboration, and fitting that we were able to do it here, given the institution's history." This land acknowledgement will be shared and discussed to greater community members on Thursday, March 28.

In terms of the future, Burke said, "We hope next year to have community events where speakers and programming are split between both Hamilton College and the Oneida soon-to-be opened community center; we also hope to create opportunities for internships and partnerships."

Schermerhorn hoped that the American Studies department he oversees would "transform American Studies into basically Native American and Indigenous Studies," under his leadership. Now, he said, "I don't think that's gonna happen that way."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE NEWS

Members of SKI pose at the Akwesasne International Powwow in 2018.

However, when asked about the development of Indigenous and Native American Studies as a discipline, Goodale said there is hope for, "a minor [or] potentially a major down the line." The development of the field of study is in the planning stages and Goodale said that "[it's] still not completely set in stone."

Schermerhorn recommends students to take classes focused on Indigenous and Native history and culture. He hopes that the College will hire the next person under the new grant, "who specializes in this region." He said, "I think that person exists. But I don't know that they've applied for the job, and therefore I'm not sure that we can hire such a person."

Goodale, Mumemo, Burke, and Montroy all are working hard to strengthen Hamilton's relationship with Oneida. On April 3 and 4, all of them are traveling to New York City to request funding and grant approval from external foundations to establish this partnership on a deeper and more official level.

Elaborating on this grant, Goodale explained that it would fund joint hires between Oneida and Hamilton to "solidify this partnership." However, there are some employment lines they must consider, and they need support from other organizations that they will speak to in New York City. The goal is to collaboratively hire two more people; one who would be the director of the program and another as a programming coordinator who would serve as liaisons for this partnership of the College and Nation. The purpose for this partnership is to plan and discuss, as Goodale described, "where our partnership can meet in the middle where we're working and pulling on each other's strengths, but also recognizing our [Hamilton's] commitment."

Goodale elaborated that running academic programming, something that he said, "we do really well," is part of hopeful future collaboration. He said, "Anything that we can do to help their community's education in areas that they want it," is the most important place to start.

To utilize Hamilton's resources, Goodale mentioned that, "we've been talking about having workshops for Oneida youth to help them write their college essays, to any college or university out there, it doesn't have to be Hamilton."

He speculated that maybe there may be, "opportunities for other ecological landscape knowledge [learning] that Oneida might be interested in [leading for] our environmental studies students." All future partnership and programming is being approached, according to Goodale, "in a very collaborative way with particular attention to what the Oneida want to get out of this."

While still hopeful for Hamilton's new plan and grant, Schermerhorn remains skeptical about some things. He said, "Hamilton's kind of like a revolving door. New people come in, new people go out. And so in some ways, I feel like this whole initiative is trying to give a little bit of a Native flavor for largely marketing purposes to students who probably as a whole don't really care that much about it." Goodale emphasized the need for structures to be put into place so that once Hamilton students, faculty, and administrators come and go, the relationship can remain strong and mutually beneficial between Hamilton and Oneida Indian Nation.

Since Schermerhorn said that working on rewriting the land acknowledgement required legal consolation to ensure the College will not actually lose any of its right of the land, he does not, "think they're really looking to change their business model or anything. I think their priority is not justice."

Structural changes remain difficult as Goodale explained, "A lot of times people want to know are we gonna have a tuition waiver for Oneida students? But Hamilton isn't quite set up that way to do something like that. So using our educational resources and putting it into building community relationships is really the place where the Oneida have asked for us to work with them."

From Schermerhorn's perspective, he is unsure about the mutually beneficial relationship between the College and the Nation. He said, "I think that the College is doing it strategically for their own reasons and sometimes those reasons will line up with Oneida's, other times they won't."

Goodale described how change and relationship building takes time. He said, "Much of our community, they want to see things happen now. And I get that, but it's very worthwhile for us to be recognizing our own history, and trying to address in a positive way where we did fall short in the past." He continued, "I think we have identified some real interesting places to try and more formally do this work and in a way more collaborative way to have a partner with the Oneida Indian Nation on this."

President-elect Tepper presents opening remarks to Hamilton community

by Gregoire Winston ’26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Thursday Feb. 29 in the Chapel, President-elect Steven Tepper addressed opening remarks to the Hamilton community, which included students, faculty and administration. Prior to taking the stand, President-elect Tepper was introduced by student representatives for the presidential search committee Sophie Thompson ’24 and Quentin Messer ’26, President David Wippman and trustees Bob Delaney ’79 and Linda Johnson ’80.

Messer and Thompson acknowledged Tepper’s “vibrant passion for the Hamilton community” alongside his willingness to “represent all interests of the student body.” Wippman remarked that although he would miss “the beauty of Hamilton’s campus, rhythm of academic life and its community” upon his departure at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, he is proud to know that “Hamilton has found the perfect leader to usher a new generation.”

Johnson followed by thanking Wippman for his work at Hamilton, which included “launching Common Ground, investing in new technologies and maintaining a steady hand during the pandemic.” As co-chair for the Search Committee, Johnson described the ideal presidential candidate for the college’s future: “Hamilton seeks a president with a deep and scholarly commitment to the liberal arts, fostering curiosity and courage. They should engage with all cohorts of the community and hold regular dialogue with alumni across many generations.”

Finally, Delaney noted some personal attributes that made Tepper stand out beyond doubt. “When you are talking to [Tepper], you feel like you are the only one in the room. He has shown a keen interest in our unique experiences. We have found someone whose beliefs in the liberal arts match with the values at Hamilton.”

Tepper began his address by highlighting Hamilton’s “legacy, experience, culture, future,” and the honor it is to work as its next president. He praised Wippman as a “dedicated and exceptional leader that has prepared the college for its future.” Throughout the day, Tepper got the chance to “visit classrooms and see facilities” throughout the day, embracing the “amazing energy of the campus community.” This environment reminded Tepper of his son’s willingness to interact with others on the playground, which represents “important lessons about joining a community and learning from everybody.” Tepper then joked about the reasons for his departure from Arizona: “I accepted this position to get to work alongside you, but to be honest, I could not take the relentlessly good Arizona weather, there was too much Vitamin D.”

Following his initial remarks, Tepper dove into his personal past and deep-rooted connection to creativity. “You could call me a Smithsonian Baby since I used to go to every museum in D.C. I was always drawn to the power of the picture, the way to look at print, texture, power and color that creates contrast and depth. Creativity is the engine that lies behind every innovation in science and culture.” At 17, Tepper’s experiences as a young artist casted self-doubt on his vision of creativity. “While drawing a still life, a young man next to me painted his self portrait as a reflection in the vase, which casted an unbelievable seed of doubt that I was not a creative person. My conclusions at that age drew on historical myths, such as the lone genius that sees the world like none other, the eccentric person that is weird, or the rational individual thinking they are not creative. That is not true. Since then, I’ve spent the rest of my life placing creativity at the center of democracy, community building, and work.”

PHOTO BY NANCY L FORD

President-elect Steven Tepper will serve as Hamilton's 21st College President.

PHOTO BY NANCY L FORD

President-Elect Steven Tepper addresses the Hamilton community alongside President Wippman and student representatives Sophie Thompson ’24 and Quentin Messer ’26.

“President Tepper struck me as a very affable man who cares about social interactions on our campus. I’m counting on him to ameliorate our student life and much more going forward,” Quinn Liu ‘26 said.

Tepper then continued by pointing out the creativity that lies within Hamilton. “[Hamilton’s] commitment to an open curriculum, original research and discovery, openness to asking the ‘what if’ questions, work with continuously evolving technolo-

gies, teaching styles and ideals make it one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation." Tepper expressed admiration for the "power and passion of a liberal arts education." 2,000 years ago, liberal arts thinking was "forged as a way to learn beyond tablets and engage by being fully exploratory. Believing there is something new to learn and being prepared to answer the difficult questions," Tepper stated.

Thinking into the future, Teper asked the audience to imagine the coming years of their campus through the lens of various collective considerations. "What if we make Hamilton a democracy makerspace, approaching the most contentious issues of our time from a place of inquiry and learning?" "What if we develop an approach to artificial intelligence that is grounded in a liberal arts education, as a means for slow, deep and sticky learning?" "What if we are known for failure, as the seed for learning and growing. A learner that can adapt, embrace the feedback and be so excited that they reimagine their ideas and design them for failure?" Tepper pondered. While acknowledging thai perspective for the future, Tepper emphasized the collective importance of communication as a vehicle for change on Hamilton's campus. "I have ideas, you have ideas, but ideas that exist in our heads are only ideas. Visions are born from the work we all do together, over the next months and years," Tepper stated.

In his concluding statements, Tepper outlined his vision for the future. "What if we blaze new paths that become a factory for sustainability and imagination? What if we prepare for a world where Hamilton graduates can possess exceptional communication skills, entering the workforce with the confidence to propose and argue? I believe in critique without judgment and failure without fear. We will tell our story louder and more brightly. There is an unbelievable story to tell," Tepper commented. As Hamilton's 21st President, Tepper is "ready to learn, take Hamilton's energy in and return it with even more enthusiasm and energy for the future."

PHOTO BY NANCY L FORD

President-elect Tepper talks with students in the Kirner-Johnson Building on a tour with his wife Dana and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Ngoni Munemo, showing school spirit in a Hamilton College bowtie.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Friday, March 22
3:21 a.m.— Fire Alarm — Milbank Residence Hall
6:18 a.m.— Trouble Alarm — Milbank Residence Hall
11:28 a.m. — Trouble Alarm — Milbank Residence Hall
5:44 p.m. — Assist — Wellin Museum of Art

Saturday, March 23
3:27 a.m. — Assist — Parking Lots: North Lot
2:49 p.m. — Concern For Welfare — Dunham Residence Hall
9:46 p.m. — Assist — Dunham Residence Hall

Sunday, March 24
1:20 a.m. — Medical Emergency — North Campus
2:16 a.m. — Trouble Alarm — South Campus

Monday, March 25
7:14 p.m. — Security Alarm— Wellin Museum of Art

Tuesday, March 26
7:20 p.m. — Larceny Complaint — Boathouse (Rome)

Wednesday, March 27
6:14 a.m. — Suspicious Activity — South Campus
12:23 p.m. — Parking Complaint — Philip Spencer House

Common Ground hosts WCNY PBS

by Catherine Vogt '24
STAFF WRITER

Common Ground hosted WCNY PBS on Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the Fillius Events Barn.

WCNY PBS recorded its first ever On the Road edition of Ivory Tower. This series evaluates politics and current events from students' perspectives by recording at local colleges and universities.

The panel consisted of Hamilton Professor Ty Seidule, Colgate Professors Nina Moore and Chad Sparber, Utica College Professors Luke Perry and Rick Fenner, and Onondaga Community College Professor Tara Ross. Professor emerita Barbara Fought of Syracuse University led the Q&A session.

David Chanatry '80, a journalism professor at Utica University and the director of the New York Reporting Project, regularly hosts Ivory Tower and moderated the event.

The event focused on four topics: diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), in vitro fertilization (IVF), sanctuary towns and military recruiting. Each topic was discussed for approximately 15 minutes.

Chanatry began the discussion by asking the panelists if colleges and businesses should get rid of DEI initiatives. Sparber responded first, remarking that DEI initiatives should be scaled back, but not completely eliminated. Moore responded to Sparber, asserting that opponents of DEI want to preserve the status quo. Likewise, she noted that people are afraid to use the wrong term and say the wrong thing, leading them to not participate in discussions. Seidule argued that DEI initiatives have been successful in the military. In the early 1970s, only .2 percent of military officers were Black while today, 9 percent of military officers are Black. Perry then expressed that since race is the most politically divisive issue in the country, it should be taken into consideration policy wise. He did maintain that implementation of DEI initiative matters and there should be an institutionalized culture where people are more empathetic.

The next topic explored was the recent Alabama Supreme Court decision arguing that embryos are children. This decision is relevant not only to women seeking to get an abortion, but also couples who struggle conceiving and turn to IVF. Fenner first made the point that politicians do not take into account ethical legal implications of the definition of when life starts. He expects there to be detrimental long-term consequences of the Alabama decision, which Moore echoed.

Moore stated that "the fall of Roe v. Wade threw out the window any standards by which any law could be judged when it comes to conception." The overturn of Roe v. Wade thus allows state lawmakers to make decisions on women's reproductive rights based on their personal beliefs, which are often influenced by religion. Additionally, the overturn allows the 50 states to interpret women's reproductive rights in 50 different ways. She also warned of future bans on commonly used contraceptives, like Plan B, that prevent a fertilized egg from attaching to the uterine lining.

The third discussion was about sanctuary towns, a hot-topic issue following New York City Mayor Eric Adams' call for modifications to the city's sanctuary policy. Ross was the first to speak, making the point that New York City residents never had the opportunity to vote upon whether their city should become a sanctuary city. The Onondaga Community College professor also raised the question of whether America will become more isolationist and no longer be the country where immigrants are welcome by the Statue of Liberty.

Moore expressed that she is concerned that Americans associate migrants with crimes since there is no such thing as "migrant crime" or even "black crime." Instead, she declared that crime is consistently shown to be correlated with poverty and socioeconomic status. Sparber also spoke about the relationship between crime and sanctuary cities. He claimed that without the fear of deportation, immigrants in sanctuary cities are more likely to report crimes and improve these cities' safety.

To close the sanctuary city discussion, Seidule compared today's 14 percent foreign born population to the 1920s when 15 percent of the country's population was foreign born. In the 1920s, immigration was only slowed because of acts targeting "non-white" people (i.e. Italians and Greeks). The Hamilton professor then asserted that there is a growing nativist movement today as anti-immigrant sentiments rise.

The final discussion dealt with military recruiting. Chanatry began by saying that for the past two years, the military has failed to meet its recruiting quotas. Seidule, a retired United States Army brigadier general, first contended that there is always a recruiting crisis when the labor market is hot. To increase military recruitment levels, Seidule made three recommendations. One, that immigrants should serve, two, the standards for the volunteer army need to be rewritten, and three, MAGA supporters need to stop saying that the military is "woke." Seidule did mention that military re-enlistment rates are very high, though.

Perry argued that the current high level of distrust in the government is a significant factor to the low recruiting rates. He claimed that Millennials and Generation Z witnessed the failure of the U.S. government's response to 9/11, the War on Terror, the Great Recession, and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thus, young Americans do not want to sacrifice their lives for a country that has not served them, which Moore and Ross both agreed with.

The recorded episode was broadcasted on Friday, March 1 at 8:00 p.m. on the WCNY PBS channel on cable television.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE VOGT '24

The panelists dicussed four key topics: DEI, IVF, sancutary towns, and military recruiting.

March 28, 2024

Backus house celebrates Purim

By Neve Cenetok '27 and Lila Cahill '27
FEATURES CONTRIBUTORS

On Tuesday evening, Hamilton Hillel welcomed students and faculty into the Azel Backus House, Center for Jewish Life, to bake Hamantaschen cookies. The group collaborated to roll and cut the dough, fill the cookies with fruit preserves and chocolate, and eventually bake the dozens of cookies. By the end of the night, after nine trays of cookies had been baked, everyone was excited to dig in, trying every filling combination that the Hamantaschen cookies held. The night was filled with lively laughter and chatter, and proved to be a good way to ease back into the life after break.

Built in 1802 and standing as one of the oldest buildings on campus, the Azel Backus House, Center for Jewish Life, has long served as a place for gathering. The house was originally situated a bit further down College Hill Road to serve as a boarding house for students of Hamilton-Oneida Academy. After moving up the hill to its current location, the house served as home to its namesake and the college's first president, Reverend Azel Backus.

Today, the house serves as a gathering place for Hamilton Hillel, a tight-knit community that provides a space for students interested in Judaism. Hamilton Hillel hosts educational and social events. Additionally, the group offers community services opportunities as well as weekly Shabbat dinners and services in celebration of High Holiday. Hamilton Hillel welcomes all students, regardless of their faith, to learn about and celebrate a wide array of Jewish traditions. Hillel hosts challah and cookie bake sales, bagel brunches and even bowling events. Students and faculty cherish Hillel as a space to gather with other members of the Hamilton community from a wide array of cultural backgrounds.

On Tuesday students baked Hamantaschen cookies, which proved to be another successful community event for the group. The traditional Hamantaschen cookie is a Jewish delicacy, often baked in preparation for the Jewish holiday of Purim. Purim celebrates the saving of Perisan Jews, and its traditions are carried on today. These triangular dough pastries are typically filled with an assortment of fruit preserves, chocolate, or poppy seeds.

Within the walls of the Azel Backus House, Center for Jewish Life, students gathered to craft nine trays of hamantaschen cookies. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder around a table clad in a plastic tablecloth, the group rolled up their sleeves and used large rolling pins to meticulously roll out the hand-crafted Hamantaschen dough.

In the following stage of the baking process, the group utilized circular cookie cutters to prepare discs that would soon contain an assortment of chocolate chips chocolate spread, fruit jams, gargantuan marshmallows, and rainbow sprinkles. From lemon and chocolate to raspberry and sprinkles, each unique flavor made for a delicious pastry. Soon, an endless array of Hamantaschen dough discs topped with a collection of fillings topped the table top.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANAS TABLE

Hamantaschen cookies are triangular pocket pastries eaten on Purim.

While the cookies baked, participants engaged in lively conversation. The group meticulously folded three corners of each disc to form a filling-contained Hamantaschen triangle. Next, each Hamantaschen triangle was nimbly placed onto large metal baking trays, which were carefully loaded into the oven. Sweet scents of Hamantaschen wafted through the house as students came in and out of the Center say hello to the group.

After fifteen minutes in the oven, the Hamantaschen cookies were ready for the group to enjoy. Still warm, the pastries were bursting with flavor. The Hamantaschen was evidently baked to perfection. Despite the fact that some cookies were misshapen, or had filling spilling out, there is no doubt that each homemade cookie was delicious.

As the group tasted the cookies, members were invited to pack up cookies in containers to share with their friends across campus. The energetic and positive atmosphere of the center community made this baking event joyful and enriching. The Azel Backus house will host a Shabbat dinner on Friday at 6:00 PM.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Azel Backus House is home to Hillel and hosts events for students interested in Judaism.

Students compete in Hamilton College's annual Public Speaking Competition

by Meg Stroup '26
FEATURES EDITOR

On Saturday, March 2, students filed into the Chapel for the final round of the Public Speaking Competition. Originally, this competition coincided with commencement and only seniors were allowed to compete. Now, it is a seperate event with two of the three prizes being open to all students.

The Oral Communication Center hosts this competition to give Hamilton students an opportunity to demonstrate their public speaking abilities and exhibit their creativity. Each nominee gives around a seven minute speech about a different category varying by prize. There are three awards for students who compete: the Clark Prize, the McKinney Prize and the Wright Prize. The senior winner of the Clark and Mckinney prize takes home a cash prize of $2,500. All other class year winners take home $1,250. The winner of the Wright Prize receives $9,500.

Amy Gaffney, Director of the OCC, commented that "the competition is an opportunity to showcase what Hamilton students can do. Students show their passion for a variety of topics and always leave the judges wowed."

The Clark Prize is the oldest prize. Nominees are asked to give a persuasive speech on a designated topic. This year's nominees for the Clarke Prize, seniors Deniz Tek '24 and Lily Harai '24, responded to the prompt from Shakespeare's Juliet, "What's in a Name?" In his speech on "The Self-Subjectivity of Names," Tek explained people's various perceptions of his name, and explained its Turkish origin. Harai's speech "Hello my name is…" explores the choices that define names.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVER ZHAO '24

Hayrumyan '27 shares her speech on gratitude.

Next, students competed for the McKinney Prize. The McKinney prize allows for students to choose their own prompts, and was established in 1885 by Hamilton College trustee Charles McKinney. Senior Emma Reilly '24 gave her speech, "Hannah Montana Said It First: Nobody's Perfect," first for this competition. Reilly criticized the idea of perfectionism as a virtue, and argued that "perfectionism is not about having high standards but impossible standards." Senior John Hern '24 followed Reilly to give another compelling speech on nuclear energy. In his speech "A Power Plant Divided," Hern argued that nuclear power can be a safer and more efficient environmental solution which can complement efforts to move toward renewable energy.

Three sophomores and two first-years followed the seniors to compete for the McKinney Prize. Sophomore Mili Reynoso '26 argued in her speech "How I Learned to Listen" that people are too focused on specific word choices and ignore the true intentions behind peoples' words. Sophomore Amaris Martins spoke about the way that our legal system mistreats Black women in her speech "The Injustice We Call Justice."

Martins argued that "justice has become a commodity, available only to those who are privileged enough to attain it." The final sophomore finalist, Grace Wilde '26, gave her speech on the "Consequences of Caring: A Look Into Our Mandated Reporting System." Wilde spoke about the way in which our mandated reporting system has led to overreporting child abuse, which has disproportionately affected children with behavioral disabilities and single parents. She argues that there should be more training on signs of child abuse, replacing a mandated reporting system, to create a more safe and fair system.

Following a fifteen minute intermission with pastries and refreshments, the final five competitors gave their speeches. Freshman Nana Hayrumyan '27's "Lessons in Gratitude from a Republic That Was Lost Overnight" argues that "gratitude is a source of generosity," attributing a lot of her values to her home country of Artsakh. First-year Teddy Gercken '27 followed, giving his speech "On Your Mark: America Prepares to Win The Second Space Race." Gercken argued that American ingenuity, with the collaboration of private companies and the government, will drive America to win the space race.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVER ZHAO '24

Lily Harai '24 delivers her speech on names.

The final prize, the Wright Prize, was established upon the retirement of Professor Moore E. Wright who taught at Hamilton for over 30 years. In order to compete for this prize, students are required to have completed Hamilton's public speaking course. This prize is distinct because these speeches are informative rather than persuasive, and following their speeches nominees are required to answer two questions from the judges.

Eric Moss '24 gave the first speech for the Wright Prize. His speech "Nature = Nurture: the Benefits of the Outdoors" explains how spending time outside can greatly improve people's mental health, drawing upon his own experience as an Adirondack Adventure trip leader.

Ethan Kalishman '24 gave his speech, "A Divided Delman Turns Divine: An Explication of Saint Louis' Harmful, Yet Improvable Urban Planning," about the harmful urban planning which has constructed his hometown of Saint Louis. Amaris Martins gave her second speech "Just Don't Sweat It: The Philosophy of Stoicism" about how stoicism helps people remain grounded and navigate difficult issues in all realms of their life.

After the judges gathered for a brief period, the audience reconvened to hear the results of the competition. Harai received the Clark Prize for her speech. Reilly took the stage to receive the McKinney Prize for seniors. As it was such a close call, the judges gave two McKinney prizes to sophomores Amaris Martins and Grace Wilde, and Namu Hayrumyan received the freshman McKinney prize. Eric Moss received the Wright Prize. Every competitor received a monetary prize for their participation in the competition. Winners of the competition will be recognized at Class and Charter Day.

March 28, 2024

Students volunteer on spring break

by Sarafina Madden '26
FEATURES EDITOR

This spring, the Alternative Spring Break (AXB) E-board orchestrated five service orientated trips. AXB participants were able to choose between five locations: Barre MA, Greensboro NC, the Land Between The Lakes in Kentucky, Asheville NC, and Suxxex County DE. Each location had a different service component ranging from volunteer work on a farm to assisting with a college's refugee program. Trips each lasted one week, some taking place the first week of spring break, others the second. Groups met on campus and drove in jitneys to their destinations.

AXB-Co President, Mary Hurner '24 led a trip to Greensboro, North Carolina where she and her fellow group mates volunteered at Guilford College's "Every Campus is a Refugee program." AXB Vice President Katie Rockford '24, led a trip to Asheville, North Carolina to help with Habitat for Humanity projects. Hurner gave some insights into the planning process that goes behind the AXB program: "We designate one person to be the point person on each trip, coordinate with community partners, recruit students and do it!" Hurner outlined the planning that went behind the trip to Guilford, explaining that a professor at Hamilton College had a connection to Guilford College and connected the AXB E-board with the College's program.

This was AXB's third consecutive year working with Guilford College on their refugee resettlement program. Hurner shared "It's really nice to have that continuity there. We're only there for a week but they're like 'Oh we know the Hamilton kids, you were here last year.'" AXB's runs a variety of trips each year. For example, this winter break, AXB ran a trip in which students worked in the Philadelphia School System. AXB makes an effort to diversify trips to meet students' interests and the E-board is always looking into partnering with new community organizations.

Hurner and Rockford shared that it has been difficult to rebuild the program after its COVID-19 hiatus. "It's still a struggle to get people to know about it because it's something that kind of disappeared and didn't have a presence on campus," Hurner shared. "Once people do it, they fall in love with it, like some people on our trip were even nervous to go on it and now they want to go again last year and people really fall in love with the service work."

AXB trips are another place for students to find community at Hamilton. Hurner compared AXB trips to the trips that OA runs with incoming freshmen. Students sleep on church floors, cook dinners and spend a lot of quality time together throughout their trip. "You have to be pretty independent to go on an AXB trip. It's sophomores, freshmen I never would have met and you just have special bonds with them that adds a whole new element to Hamilton." Hurner shared. Rockford concurred with Hurner: "I knew two people coming into my trip but now I just met five other people I didn't know."

Both Hurner and Rockford reflected on some of the most rewarding moments of their trips. "My trip was really special because we had a really diverse group of students on our trip, like international students, so when we went to work in this daycare center with refugee children while their parents were learning English, the Hamilton students were able to connect with parents and students who spoke these different languages that they speak. So it was such a meaningful impact for our students to find connection to these people in the U.S who come from similar backgrounds," Hurner explained.

Rockford shared the most rewarding part of her trip: "Seeing the progress everyday. Myself and two of the other participants helped to build scaffolding around one of these houses and we did it from start to finish and we did it in a couple days and just seeing the progress everyday was such a big highlight." Rockford shared a non-service oriented highlight of her trip which was when she and her group mates spent the day hiking a mountain in the Blue Ridge mountain range and grilled a dinner in a state park afterwards. Hurner explained that "You learn so much. You could go into an experience like this and have certain expectations about what it'll be like or what you'll learn. I think in some ways those expectations will be met but I think in more ways your expectations will be questioned."

Hurner also noted that "You get to see a new part of the country which I think is special. Seeing what things are like in a different part of the country and how people live there is really special," Rockford shared that the AXB trips serve as unique opportunities for learning: "At Hamilton you're obviously learning in the classroom, but you learn so many things that you never would have learned in a classroom like how to build scaffolding, how to use a hammer, and even just talking with people from different backgrounds."

Hurner and Rockford both have long standing commitments to service work. Rockford shared that in high school she volunteered to tutor inner city female students in Philadelphia and was heavily involved in her school's Special Education oriented service work. Hurner explained that coming to Hamilton she knew she wanted to make service work a priority. During her freshman year, Hurner was involved in Coop's CSI program, and she is now a senior fellow with the Coop. Hurner and Rockford were both placed in the community outreach floor their freshman year. Hurner commented that "there is room to improve and provide more opportunities to be involved in service. There are so many ways that that can happen. You don't have to do something you don't enjoy. There are so many ways you can do it that fits your interests."

Rockford shared that she engages in service work in the spirit of giving back and because of the relationships that have come out of her service oriented experiences. For Hurner, people are at the heart of her commitment to service work: "You meet so many people and learn so many things from people." Rockford and Hurner also commended Amy James, Director of Community Outreach, for being such an incredible mentor. AXB trips are great opportunities for Hamilton students to help communities beyond Hamilton while also building new bonds within the Hamilton community.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE ROCKFORD '24

Hamilton students construct afforable homes.

Hamilton alum presents cyber reseach

by Gregoire Winston '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Friday March 1, 2024, Jiin Jeong ’21 presented her talk titled “What Top Hackers Do Differently: An Exploration of Cybersecurity, Talent, Strategies, and Fundamentals.” As a former Economics and Computer Science double major at Hamilton, Jeong was eager to present the various conclusions she came to following her time post-graduation. Among her many notable professional experiences, she interned for investment banking group Goldman Sachs, was awarded the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship for the 2021-2022 academic year and is currently pursuing a Masters in Information Security at Carnegie Mellon University as a CyberCorps SFS Scholar.

Jeong began her talk by outlining what is considered the modern-day mainstream perception for cybersecurity throughout movies and TV shows. Words such as encryption, router, machine networks, intrusion and detection were most used, shaping understanding of the cybersecurity world. However, Jeong provided a clear definition for cybersecurity: “Protecting networks, devices and data from unauthorized access of criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity and the availability of information.” She further stressed the need for “trustworthy and reliable data, while remaining confidential. We want things to be available to the public when they require it.”

Following her introductory segment, Jeong dove into work she is currently conducting as a Masters candidate. Her cybersecurity research at Carnegie Mellon focuses on global cybersecurity education and policy. As part of her program, Jeong works closely with cybersecurity researchers and educators worldwide that have shared their insights at what she coined “the SuperBowl of Cybersecurity:” DEF CON. The annual conference, held this year in Las Vegas, brings together computer security professionals from around the world to collaborate in team-building activities through Capture-the-Flag (CTF) competitions.

Among the findings she has collected from her research, Jeong underlined South Korea’s prominence in the cybersecurity field. “South Korea has a nationwide best-of-the-best program among nations, with high internet and science high schools. It is very industry and research oriented… Top cyber companies, such as Samsung, collaborate closely with these nationwide programs. Specialization happens early on, there is so much cyber-specific content in South Korea in comparison to the U.S.,” Jeong said. Moreover, China is pursuing “an aggressive cybersecurity investment,” according to Jeong, as exemplified by China’s National Cybersecurity Center (CNCC). In contrast to American cyber security infrastructure, CNCC is “twice as big as Fort Mead, where the U.S. and NSA pursue its cyber operations from,” Jeong stated. Finally, Jeong focused on U.S. involvement in developing its cybersecurity program relative to international competition. She concluded that “the U.S. emphasizes the importance of solid basic skills and hands-on research skills. It holds a strong alumni network, experts come back and train students to solve problems.” When addressing the limitations of her research, Jeong rhetorically asked: “how do CTF competitions relate to real life?” She highlighted that “the people working at CTF’s are full-time employees that lead threat-analysis teams for the U.S. in China and work on secret missions for the NSA. Their work most definitely translates to the real world.”

Jeong continued by spotlighting PicoCTF, Carnegie Mellon University’s computer science education program, which she has personally benefited from. Jeong emphasizes PicoCTF as the “largest learning platform for K-12 students in the U.S., it focuses on sex key domains for cybersecurity: General Skills, Cryptography, Web Exploitation, Forensics, Binary Exploitation, and Reversing.” Jeong added that PicoCTF’s supporting materials, PicoGYM and PicoPrimer, stands as “an area to build cybersecurity skills across a ranges of difficulties” and “a platform to write how you got your solutions, understand how past problem-solvers won these competitions,” respectively.

In the near future, Jeong will spearhead an upcoming PicoCTF event in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Computer Science. The program consists of various escape rooms with four distinct stations, concentrating on cryptography, network security, physical security and social engineering. The event is intended specifically for “6th-8th grade middle school girls,” who can enhance their understanding of cybersecurity by learning about “spoofing attacks, phishing, open source intelligence, and lock picking,” among others, as Jeong claims. Jeong’s Watson Fellowship research further discovered that cybersecurity has a “9-1 man to woman ratio in the U.S. and 93-7 man to woman ratio in South Korea.” Jeong hopes her work can help diversify the field. In April, she will be attending BSides Seattle 2024 Conference to present her research.

When thinking about lessons she has learned about being a student in the cyber field, Jeong acknowledges that “[she] took a chance on [herself] and others took a chance on [her] to help [her] develop. We often shy away from opportunities, but bringing yourself into it is so important. Even when I got into CMU, I debated whether or not I would succeed in the program. Being open to opportunities brought me to great mentors, networking opportunities, and talks at Hamilton!” As advice for students looking to pursue a career in the cyber field, Jeong hopes her experience can be an inspiration for others. “When people put in two hours, I put in four. While I had time-management skills, my technical knowledge was below average. I did things earlier so I could ask questions earlier and succeed. It’s a soft skill that people should grasp. Learning to reach out for ressources and leveraging my skills and research is crucial. Think about your strengths, how you read and learn. The learning curve is steep, but it will help you grow.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Jeong graduated from Hamilton double majoring in Economics and Computer Science.

Klinkner discusses U.S. presidential election

by Gregoire Winston '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday March 13, 2024, members of the Hamilton community came together in attending Here We Go Again: Presidential Election 2024, a Hamilton-sponsored virtual event. The hour-long discussion provided a platform for current students, faculty, administrators and alumni to share their insights regarding the upcoming Nov. presidential election. The James S. Sherman Professor of Government at Hamilton, Phillip Klinkner, displayed his expertise on the history of American political parties and elections alongside Sam Rosenfeld, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director for the Public Affairs and Policy Research Institute at Colgate University.

Klinkner began his discussion by clarifying certain misconceptions mainstream media may have incorrectly broadcasted regarding President Biden's reelection bid. For one, Klinkner highlighted the unwavering support behind a second Biden election campaign and potential White House term. "The Democratic party is incredibly unified around [Biden's] candidacy. When you look at progressives that might be inclined to challenge him, like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez or Bernie Sanders, they have nonetheless endorsed him. AOC even claimed he was "one of the best presidents in American history," Klinkner stated. From a historical vantagepoint, Klinker added that "there is a consistent trend for the incumbent president to run again," giving audience members a reasoning behind his attempt to remain in the White House for four more years.

Shifting gears to Trump's election bid, Klinkner pointed out the GOP nominee's distinctive quest to the White House. "When a candidate loses in the presidency, he loses and slumps into darkness. Trump is a unique political figure, didn't accept his loss and convinced his party that he really is the incumbent." Partly thanks to his "big lie rhetoric around the 2020 election," which Klinkner states to have been "extremely effective," Trump has cemented a hold on the Republican voter base coming into the Nov. general election. As a result, Klinkner noted that Trump's direct political rivals have feared repercussions from confronting Trump and thus losing a significant portion of the GOP voter pool. "The calculus of Haley and DeSantis was that Trump would implode, people would see him declare bankruptcy, go to jail and go away. The same calculus that was used in 2016, but without an affirmative case as to why the other person isn't a good candidate, you cannot beat them. This fed into Trump's big lie notion and allowed him to run as an incumbent of his own."

Rosenfeld continued the conversation by presenting notable pointers that could be crucial come Nov. For one, Rosenfeld discussed Biden's recent polling numbers and approval ratings. "While [Biden's] general approval numbers turned net negative in Aug. 2021, in the last 6 months he has barely budged over 40%. Recent polling has him at 37%. This could be due to Gaza demobilizing the party, but it doesn't inspire confidence 9 months out," he stated. Moreover, Biden is set to capitalize on Trump being an extreme polarizing figure on the political scene. "Trump is a uniquely unpopular figure and continues to be. Alternative candidates would be in a stronger position to run against Biden because Trump is such a polarizing figure." Rosenfeld underlined the economic grievance Biden will have to overcome if he seeks to win the presidency: persistent inflation. "Compared to other economic problems former presidents have had to deal with, such as unemployment which is more acute, inflation is much more widespread and every American suffers from it. 2 years of dramatic increases in inflation leave its toll. The nation is catching up to the economic results, or lack thereof, and it could affect Biden's chances at reelection," Rosenfeld remarked. Looking into voting polls, Rosenfeld indicated an important shift in voting patterns, particularly with non-white voters shifting to the Republican camp. While Trump may have employed "racially-loaded language" over recent months, Rosenfeld calls attention to "racial realignment being the real story." "The general theme is that with the same educational polarization, we are starting to see it among African-American men. This reflects in ideological sorting, non-white voters who think of themselves as conservative see themselves now as more Republican than Democrat," Rosenfeld stated.

During the Q&A portion, both professors were asked about the normalization of political violence in the wake of the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol attack. Klinkner stated that "these individuals' actions have been excused, even glorified by Trump. The Republicans have embraced a rhetoric of violence, such as the importance of violence in maintaining political order and fighting off the tyrannical government. It is very real and depressing, that is for sure." The speakers were then asked about the chance third-parties might have in swaying the Nov. presidential election. Rosenfeld mentioned Robert Kennedy Jr. "It doesn't take a lot of votes in Michigan, for instance, to make a difference between the Green Party and independents. Today, Kennedy's numbers are similar to Ross Perot in 1996, which is notable, especially when we have two unpopular party candidates."

Finally, Klinkner and Rosenfeld presented their personal insights with regards to the 2024 election. Klinkner noted that "regardless of the outcome, Trump will claim that he won. Even if he loses, he will claim fraud and that he was a winner. There is a certain 'Flight 93 moment' amongst the GOP: a life or death scenario threatening their existence, the idea that the demographic tides are running against the Republican party and if they don't seize political control now, they will never have it again." For his part, Rosenfeld remained optimistic. "I am reassured that even the serious MAGA republicans are lacking discipline and self-directed motivations. There are very robust reservoirs of resistance to what Trump wants to do and MAGA wants to do with the country. Trump as a leader does not inculcate a broad range of support, those reservoirs of resistance will mobilize to counter his efforts at establishing a dictatorship a day or longer."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Professor Klinkner shared his insights on the Nov. 2024 presidential election during the virtual discussion.

Why the Bible supports gay marriage

by Tristan Sollecito '24
STAFF WRITER

DISCLAIMER: For the purposes of this short article, "the Bible" will be used interchangeably with the New Testament. Although the Torah is fundamental to these texts and should not be excluded from the discussion, I have decided to limit my direct evidence to strictly New Testament scripture in the interest of brevity.

I read the Bible an awful lot, and while a huge proportion of ideological opinions across the globe are directly rooted in scriptural text, I—like countless others for whom these passages remain fundamental to their identity and thought—perpetually find myself searching for explicit theological answers that simply do not exist in writing. There are countless examples of religious beliefs that stem abstractly from biblical interpretation but lack specific reference within the text. Gay marriage, or homosexual activity in particular, cannot be included in this list. Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians: "Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men…will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9 NIV). Sounds pretty explicit. So how can I, as someone who holds the teachings of Jesus—and his disciples by extension—to the highest esteem of ideological thought, interpret this verse as anything other than anti-gay? Hear me out:

I will preface my argument with the confusing reality that all of the available primary biblical literature has been translated and transcribed for thousands of years and the original passages, and certainly their intentions, remain somewhat unclear. That said, even if we assume perfect depictions of what Paul wrote in the quotation above, as well as the other biblical references to homosexual activity, I do not believe that God and Jesus condemn gay marriage. Take a closer look at that particular verse, this time with the second half that I omitted previously, "…nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers [will inherit the kingdom of God.]" (1 Corinthians 6:9). If interpreters are to categorize the listed behaviors as sinful, they must first identify the underlying wrong, as few if any would argue that the physical manifestations of these actions are intrinsically evil, absent of a sinful intention; a "drunkard" is not in the wrong because he frequently raises a cup of fermented liquid to his mouth, but rather due to the harmful effects that result, for example. So are these activities that Paul describes considered evil? Not necessarily. Most of these examples of sinful behavior according to Paul are encompassed by the broader sin of lust. Lust is difficult to define but can typically be used to describe behaviors that pursue personal pleasure for the wrong reasons, often lacking consideration for the well being of others (as in cheating on a romantic partner or swiping the last Devil-Dog from your sibling's mini fridge). Wait, so queer relationships are lustful? If you consider the context and environment of these scriptures, it is highly unlikely that Paul was suggesting as such.

Saint Peter's first epistle includes a strikingly similar warning against a list of unlawful behaviors, "… living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable behavior" (1 Peter 4:4 NIV). Debauchery is defined by Oxford Languages as "excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures," which parallels my interpretation of the verse I quoted from Paul. There are numerous examples of these warnings throughout the Bible, most of which fall under the categorical umbrella of sexual immorality. "Sexual immorality" is a common English translation of the Greek word 'porneia,' as it appears in the original text. I do not purport to be a master of linguistics, but this word across Greek literature can be broadly interpreted as frivolous sexual activity for the purpose of pure self-gratification rather than the gratification of a committed partner. Paul and Peter are highlighting descriptive examples of porneia, also known as lust. Homosexual activity is included not because queerness is a sin, but rather because Paul and Peter could not have conceptualized a loving relationship between two members of the same sex.

A modern perspective could easily attribute this opinion to homophobia, but in Peter and Paul's day and age, gay marriage was neither supported or opposed, it was simply unprecedented. Would these close followers of God and Jesus have taken offense to two members of the same sex, deeply in love with each other, joining together in marriage? I would like to think not, but the Bible really does not say. Paul and Peter condemn all sexual behavior conducted simply for "fun," or perhaps more eloquently, sexual behavior outside the realm of a committed relationship where such behavior can carry romantic significance. Just nine verses down the line from the passage I quoted from Paul, he states, "… he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body" (1 Corinthians 6:16). Sexual relations between two people of the same sex for the purposes of fleeting gratification was viewed as "sinful," just as they were for such relations between a man and a woman. So is all intimacy between two men or two women always just for insignificant gratification? Of course not, but 2,000 years ago, it was viewed as such. Two people of the same sex in a long-term, committed romantic relationship was neither considered positively nor negatively; it was not considered at all. It is worth noting that Jesus himself, whom I believe truly had...

It is worth noting that Jesus himself, whom I believe truly had the answers to all of these questions and beyond, is not quoted in the Bible with any reference to homosexual activity. Paul and Peter were mere human beings left to interpret Jesus' teachings as best they could. Many historians maintain that the authors of the texts quoted above did not even know Jesus personally. If these authors were alive today, where it is abundantly clear that two members of the same sex can fall deeply in love, I find it difficult to imagine that Paul and Peter would have interpreted Jesus' teachings the same way. Is it homophobic to assume all homosexual behavior is devoid of love? Absolutely it is, unless you lived in a time in which there was no conception of the possibility of a queer romantic relationship. Paul and Peter were not omnipotent or all-knowing, and although they were deeply entrenched in Jesus' words, they were at least partially a product of their society.

If Jesus himself were to speak on the matter, I believe it would sound very different than what we are accustomed to hearing from the stereotypical Judeo-Christian perspective. We do not have record of Jesus offering his two cents on gay marriage, but boy does he emphasize the importance of love: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30/31 NIV). I would need a whole book to describe every example. Here is my point: the Bible uses homosexual activity as one small example of "lustful behavior", which of course it can be, in just the same way that heterosexual activity can. The authors of the Bible likely did not consider a scenario in which members of the same sex would share romantic feelings for one another, and thus assumed that all homosexual activity was frivolous and counter-productive. So would a national government headed by God and Jesus oppose gay marriage? I would be very surprised. After all, even Paul himself goes on to declare, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."(1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV).

March 28, 2024

"Madame Web" underwhelms viewers

by Allen Underwood '25
STAFF WRITER

Biased statement: I love terrible movies. I think there is inherent value in recognizing what doesn't work in a film, as painful a process as that may be. Admittedly, the bar was set extraordinarily low for S.J. Clarkson's 2024 spider-person origin story, "Madame Web." With a whopping twelve percent on Rotten Tomatoes, and a grade of 26 on Metacritic, it's safe to say that the world has not been kind to "Madame Web." Oft derided on social media as an unfinished cash-grab, I was excited to experience this cinematic landmark for myself.

"Madame Web" was an engaging movie. A deeply flawed, yet engaging movie. Problems crop-up almost immediately. The prologue for the film, set in a Peruvian rainforest, is a tacky, clunky exposition dump. We are introduced to Tahar Rahim's character, Ezekiel Sims, in a performance so outrageously hammy that I could not invest any serious interest in this film beyond the three minute mark. The following action scene seems stuck in 2005—very Matrix-esque, with digital pans that are initially off-putting. While I came to appreciate the flair in Leigh Folsom's editing, the introduction of "Madame Web" was so egregiously offensive that I can't blame audiences for writing off the entire film on account of its opening sequence.

Things progressively get better until the film fizzles out to a conclusion. Dakota Johnson gives a great performance as Casey Webb, a New York City EMT who discovers her latent clairvoyant powers. Johnson's take on Webb is endearing, albeit abrasive and apathetic for the majority of the movie. Webb is not exactly a likable character in the script, but Johnson's performance is grounded enough for some real humanity to seep through the corporate filter. The same can be said for Sydney Sweeny and Isabela Merced, who do their best with what they are given—both embody the characters authentically, but are hindered by poor writing. This was most apparent with Celeste O'Conner's character: she's written like a schoolyard bully in a musical, given lines that simply cannot be delivered with any sort of wit or panache. It's not O'Conner's fault that the script stinks; however I felt like her character dragged down the chemistry of the main trio.

This is not to say that there's much chemistry here. To Clarkson, "character development" is synonymous with "bickering." When we meet the three spider-women-to-be, we come to understand them through pedantic arguments and forced conflict. Their relationships feel contrived, they stem from the story as opposed to their interactions as people. Johnson's role as a mother-figure to the girls is conveyed well enough, but this conflicts with the indifferent disdain demanded of her by the script. At its most basic level, I think Johnson brings the best out of the Spider-Women, but glaring flaws are immediately apparent in how these characters have been constructed.

I found the setting of Madam Webb objectionable. Casey Webb works as an EMT in Manhattan in 2003—it would be difficult to divorce the city in this era from a particular event. Especially considering how the PATRIOT Act is the true impetus for the plot; Ezekiel, plagued by nightmares in which he is bested by three Spider-Women, can only begin his search with the help of newly implemented facial recognition software, from Homeland Security. Of course, you couldn't have a Spider-man story set anywhere other than New York City. But why did this have to happen in the early-2000s? I wasn't expecting 25th Hour, but as a New Yorker, it's hard to reconcile such a cheery depiction of the city with the reality of historical circumstance, of events which actually propelled the plot of the film.

The setting of this film is totally arbitrary: the time period is a decoration, an audiovisual garnish. The world of "Madame Web" lacks substance: Adam Scott's character Ben Parker claims he served as a medic in an overseas war, yet this passing mention has no bearing on his character whatsoever. Clarkson is more concerned with the idea of the 2000s: American Idol and Martha Stewart, Beyonce and Blockbuster Video. And I must say, she does succeed in getting the look right—I was enamored with the Y2K stylings of Clarkson's world. Yet, the story could occur in 2024 without any issue; things would probably make more sense that way.

Perhaps the most egregious failing of "Madame Web" is the lack of Spider-Woman action. The two short scenes we get of the Spider-Trio are really cool, yet they comprise only three minutes of a one hour, 40 minute runtime. For what it's worth, I enjoyed the action sequences a lot here—Rahim is goofy as Ezekiel, but properly terrifying in costume, with a rigid, malicious physicality. After hearing many complaints about the lack of action, I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the chase sequences in "Madame Web." I think this has to do with the editing; "Madame Web" is a well edited movie if you can tolerate camp. If you enjoy films like '05 Fantastic Four or Daredevil, you'll like this film. Casey's clairvoyance is communicated well—like in Easy Rider, we see scenes unfold before they actually occur. This involved the viewer in a really cool way, with the audience working through the puzzle of the vision alongside Casey. The psychedelic spacey-visuals were also up to snuff. Nothing like Doctor Strange, but enough to get your fix if that's your bag. I was surprised by how much worked here.

I could recommend "Madame Web." At the very least, watch it with your friends and deride it late on a Saturday night. It is both just as bad and better than you've heard it is. The film is far from good, but you'll certainly be entertained.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH DEBBER/GQ

S.J. Clarkson's 2024 spider-person origin story movie, "Madame Web", stars Dakota Johnson and Sydney Sweeney.

René Treviño displays "Stab of Guilt" exhibition in the Wellin Museum

by Katlynn Leon '25
STAFF WRITER

From Feb. 17 to June 9, the Wellin Museum will be exhibiting René Treviño's "Stab of Guilt." Alexander Jarman led the curation of this exhibition, marking his first time as lead curator at the Wellin. Throughout the curation process, Jarman worked very closely with Treviño to select and display over 200 artworks. Due to their close relationship and Treviño's passion for teaching, the artist returned to campus for a week of classroom visits and discussions on his exhibit.

René Treviño's bright aesthetic is noticed immediately upon entering "Stab of Guilt." The entrance is confronted with a larger-than-life black and gold stage preset with courtly robes embellished with faux jaguar fur and patches. This installation combines Treviño's background in theatre, while placing Mexican and Western history in conversation with one another. By placing such a theatrical piece at the entrance, Treviño and Jarman are playing into the artist's favorite component of theatrical spaces: "that you walk in and are ready to suspend your disbelief." This installation succesfully set the tone and expectation for this beautiful but complex exhibition.

"Stab of Guilt" is a multidisciplinary exhibition that encompasses a wide range of mediums and inspirations. Treviño created elaborate costuming, intricate star maps, a planetarium, and much more for this display. Throughout most of his work, the artist explores Mayan and Aztec history, Catholic symbolism, astronomy, pop, culture, and queer theory to represent his identity and heritage in a new way. For Treviño, artists are the only ones who can thoroughly challenge and reconstruct history under a modern lens.

As Treviño covers highly complex topics with deeply intricate and time-consuming artworks, it may seem like he has been an artist his whole life. However, "growing up in rural south Texas, [René] never even saw artists or that [he] could live [his] life that way." As seen in many of his artworks, Treviño went to undergrad for Theatre at Texas A&M and it wasn't until he went to New York City that he realized that he could become an artist. Once he dedicated himself to his art and after a trip to his ancestral home of Mexico City, Treviño began to focus on creating art that represented his identities and the arduous labor his ancestors put in before him. All of the art on display in "Stab of Guilt" can be connected to Treviño's past and this commitment to himself.

In an interesting conversion of past and present, Treviño manipulated nineteenth-century star charts made by C.H.F. Peters (Hamilton College's first professor of astronomy). Three years ago, when Treviño first began working with the Wellin he was invited to look into the archives. It was there he found the celestial charts that were then photocopied to create "Sunspots by Day, Asteroids by Night" (2023). In this series Treviño paints on and attaches colorful, sparkly 3D objects to those nineteenth-century celestial charts. This is one of the many artworks from "Stab of Guilt" in which Treviño merges historically Western views of the heavens with Mayan and Aztec perspectives. Not only that, but the bright colors and use of glitter illuminate the artist's queer identity and culture.

PHOTO BY KATLYNN LEON '25

Treviño experiments by incorporating bright color into his works of art.

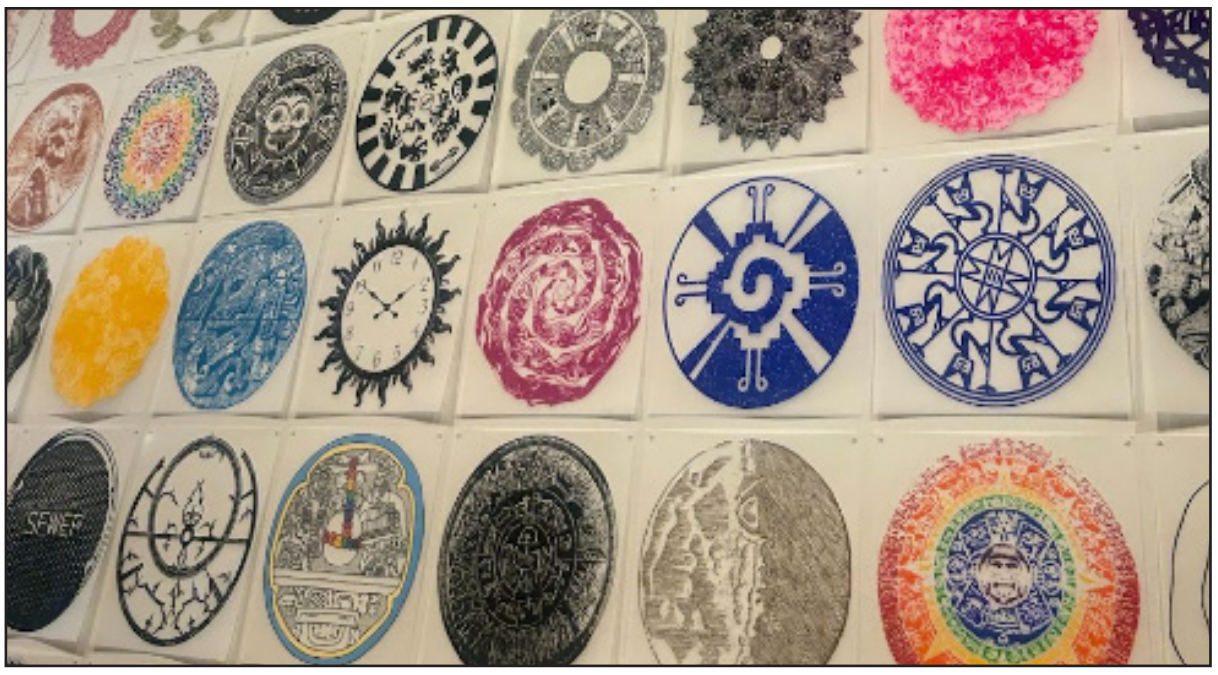

PHOTO BY KATLYNN LEON '25

Throughout his work, René Treviño explores Mayan and Aztec history while intertwining Catholic symbolism, astronomy and queer theory.

Over the three years Treviño was visiting campus to complete his exhibition, he was able to explore various departments and was given access to their resources. Through this he interacted with students, faculty, and staff. By way of these interactions, Treviño became "so psyched about [Hamilton College]" and felt "incredibly fortunate to be asked to display [his] work here." It was incredibly moving to hear how highly Treviño spoke about Hamilton College and the Wellin Museum. It was clear that without Alexander Jarman or Hamilton College this exhibition would look incredibly different.

René Treviño is an incredibly talented artist who is willing to put in the tedious labor to complete complex artwork that are inspired by his hardworking ancestors. Stab of Guilt is an extension of this commitment. Though Treviño only worked with the Wellin for three years, some of the pieces in this exhibition go back as early as 2008. To see over a decade of Renè's work and leave with a nuanced understanding of history, visit the Wellin Museum before June 9.

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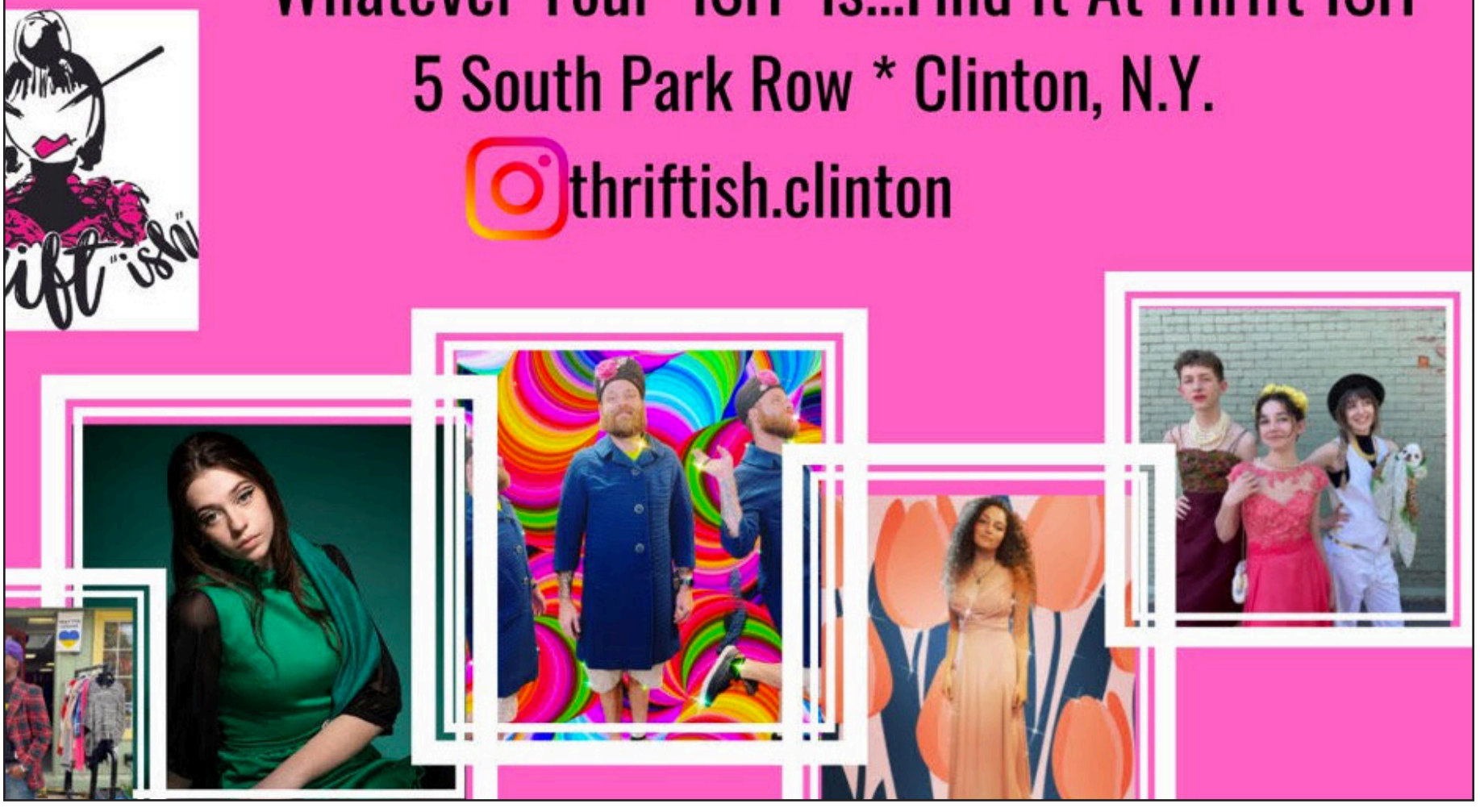

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To save itself, college basketball needs a boss

by Patrick Cleary '24
SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO COURTESY OFREBECCA GRATZ/NCAA/GETTY IMAGES

Caitlin Clark, the biggest star in college basketball, has her sights set on the pros.

It is that time of year: college basketball fans across the country are filling out brackets and watching the 68 best college teams in the country compete in one tournament. That's right, March Madness is here. This annual fixture displays the best and worst college sports has to offer. The highs of a Cinderella run are juxtaposed with the lows of off-court drama. Player compensation, the transfer portal and conference realignment all draw attention away from compelling games. Every year, it gets harder and harder to just watch the games and root for your team.

On Feb 29, Iowa Hawkeyes guard Caitlin Clark declared for the 2024 WNBA draft, forgoing her final year of eligibility. Three days later, she passed Pete Maravich to become the all-time leading scorer across all of college basketball. She is a star. Still, her announcement provoked some questions from some members of the media. Since the inception of name, image and likeness (NIL) rights into college sports following a June 2021 Supreme Court decision in *NCAA v Alston*, college athletes can be compensated for commercial opportunities. In the past, players could not monetize their careers to compete in college sports. As players move up to the pros, college basketball loses its brightest stars. Clark, the biggest star in college basketball, would be a big loss. Reportedly, Fox Sports considered offering Clark an NIL deal to stay in college so they can continue to showcase her on their broadcasts.

The story is indicative of Clark's star power within the sport. She is a member of a new generation of young women's basketball stars alongside the likes of USC's JuJu Watkins and LSU's Angel Reese. This year, the women's tournament has attracted comparable attention to the mens. Yet, it also reveals the complications of the post-NIL world of college basketball. There are not really any rules for this. Unlike the pros, there is no bargaining process. Everybody is out on their own and it has led to some troubling outcomes.

In 2018, the NCAA launched the transfer portal, an online tool to help connect athletes with programs in the hopes of transferring. Previously, athletes would have to sit out and lose a year of eligibility in order to change programs. This is a step in the right direction for college sports, empowering athletes to do what is best for their development. However, when combined with NIL, it has had some negative consequences. For one, it interrupts the natural development cycle of young athletes. Rather than learning a system and slowly developing before getting significant playing time, athletes can leave if they do not immediately get what they want. Additionally, mid-major schools risk losing their players to bigger programs capable of dangling better NIL offers to recruits. It threatens to further shift power to big programs, potentially preventing the upsets that make college sports worth watching. This division between the haves and have nots is present in another worrying trend across college athletics: conference realignment.

Much like in pro sports, college teams are arranged into conferences. These divisions assign a champion and help decide schedules. Unlike in the pros, however, college conferences govern and decide membership themselves. Historically, these were regional divisions like the southern SEC or midwestern Big 10. This precedent has been shaken by the arrival of big television contracts. Conferences sign contracts with networks to broadcast games. This money is then used to pay for coaches, facilities and staff in the hopes of securing new recruits. Money is not shared across conferences, meaning conferences only think about what benefits themselves in the short term. It is an arms race. Realignment threatens to eliminate historic rivalry games. USC and Stanford have played over 100 games against one another dating back to 1905. With each team departing for the the Big 10 and the ACC respectively, that rivalry is no more. Additionally, because conferences are no longer based around geography, it leads to instances where athletes have to travel further distances for competition. Instead of a USC student remaining mostly on the West Coast in the PAC 12, they will now be forced to fly out to Ohio and Pennsylvania for in-conference games, all while juggling a typical college workload, just to please television networks.

Again and again, the problem is that programs look out for their own rather than the collective. That's why college sports needs a real boss with real power. While the NCAA has a president in former Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, his powers are limited to the occasional fine or penalty after damage has been done. The NCAA does not have a monopoly on governance and any real attempt to curb the power of big programs would yield a lawsuit at best and a breakaway league at worst. That is why we need an impartial, national-level figure appointed by the President to manage college athletics. The United States is one of the few countries in the world to lack a minister-level official to oversee sport. It is time we join the rest of the world. Otherwise, we will continue to go down this path and it will get harder and harder to just watch our teams play.

Hamilton men's hockey completes season

by Andrew Brennan '26
STAFF WRITER

Hamilton's Men's Hockey season has come to a close after a narrow defeat against Tufts in the NESCAC Championship Semifinals the Saturday before Spring Break. The Tufts Jumbos scored the only goal of the game with seven-and-a-half minutes left in the second period. The Tufts' goalkeeper made 45 saves throughout the game, including eight in the final two minutes, securing their 1-0 win after Hamilton pulled its goalkeeper for an additional skater. Hamilton goalkeeper Jack Grant '24 also had a great performance, allowing just one goal and saving 37 shots. The Continentals fired two shots that hit the post during the game, one just eight seconds after the opening faceoff by James Philpott '25 The other came at the beginning of the third period by Max Bulawka '26. Ultimately, the Continentals were unable to equalize and advance to the NESCAC finals. This season was certainly an overall success, despite Saturday's loss ending their hopes of making a deep Championship run. Compared to last season, where the Continentals went 13-10-2 and lost in the opening playoff round in the NESCAC Championship Quarterfinals, the team did demonstrably better this season, going 17-8-1 and making it one game further in the playoffs. The Continentals had great games and moments throughout the season to look back fondly on. The team started the season strong, winning seven of their first eight games. In their fourth game of the season, they shut out Trine University 4-0 to win the North County Tournament. In the game, Grant had 37 saves, and for his performance, he was named MVP of the tournament. In their eighth game of the season, the Continentals defeated Williams 3-1. After going scoreless for the first two periods and letting up one goal to Williams in the first period, they rallied for the win with three goals in the final period, scored by first-year Luke Tchor '27, Ben Zimmerman '26 and first-year Devon de Vries '27.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

James Philpott '25 was selected for the AHCA Men's Division II-III 2023-24 All-America team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Hamilton's men's hockey team ended their season with a close 1-0 loss to Tufts.

After their first eight games, Hamilton hit a short rough patch, going 0-2-1 in their next three games. However, they regained their stride against Amherst in a thrilling 7-6 victory. The game saw Hamilton score the most goals in one game that they would score in the whole season, with Alex Danis '26 leading the team with three goals. Up 7-3 in the second period, Amherst began a comeback, making it a close 7-6 game with one minute remaining, but they were unable to equalize the score. In their next game, the Continentals followed up their victory with a 4-3 win over SUNY Geneseo, ranked second at the time. Grant had a then-season high 41 saves, including 17 in the third period. The end of the game was particularly thrilling as the Continentals fought to maintain their one-goal lead. SUNY Geneseo took eleven shots during the final minutes, but ultimately, they were unable to score.

On Senior Day, the last regular season game of the year, the Continentals finished strong with a tough 3-2 win over Williams. Grant made a season-high 43 saves and made multiple key plays to maintain the lead in the final minute and secure the victory. Continuing their three-game regular season win streak, the Continentals beat Amherst 4-3 in the NESCAC Championship quarterfinals. With a strong offensive start thanks to three goals scored by Jackson Krock '26 (twice) and Grisha Gotovets '25, Hamilton preserved their lead throughout the game as Amherst fought back. Matt Gellerman '24 added another goal in the third period to go up 4-1 after Ryan Brown '25 forced a turnover, but Amherst kept chipping away at the lead. In the final minute, down by only a goal, Amherst attempted two shots: one was saved by Grant, while the other was blocked by Captain Max Wutzke '24, sealing Continental victory.

Over the course of the season, several Hamilton players demonstrated statistical excellence as well. Tchor was third in total goals this season among NESCAC players with 13, and Krock was fifth in goals with eleven. Tchor led the conference in assists with 21, and Philpott was close behind with 16. Tchor also led the conference in total points with 34. While the season ended in a tough loss to Tufts, which certainly was a disappointing end of the season, the campaign was still an overwhelming success with many great moments throughout.